

EISENHOWER CITES LIMITED TEST AIM

Says Mock Reprisal Is Not
Planned—Warns Against
Any 'Misunderstanding'

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EMERGENCY WHITEHOUSE

June 16—President Eisenhower moved swiftly today to keep practice Operation Alert from fouling up the serious business of the nation's foreign relations. He called reporters to him to spike speculation about "massive retaliation" even on a mock scale against an imaginary enemy in the wake of yesterday's simulated nuclear attack against three score American cities.

The President, approaching a Big Four meeting in mid-July in Geneva, Switzerland, designed to lower world tensions, said he wanted no misunderstanding about "fictitious military exercises against an unnamed power." He did not say so, but in the public mind that enemy probably would be identified as the Soviet Union.

"This is entirely a matter of Civil Defense and relocation," the President said. "No military problem is assumed at all under this fictitious situation. We are simply trying to see whether, under conditions assuming the destruction of the United States, the Government could continue to function."

Hoover Attends Meeting

He made this statement before he motored over dusty, tree-lined mountainous roads to a secret underground Pentagon, in whose air conditioned floors he met for four hours with members of the National Security Council.

This meeting was both a "game" and a serious session, with the surprise addition of J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to the list of top government officials who regularly or frequently attend its meetings.

They spent about thirty minutes talking about the relocation exercise, then moved on to regular agenda of business such as would confront them at their



AT WORK IN HIDEAWAY: President Eisenhower signing some routine papers yesterday in an emergency White House secret Government retreat after hydrogen-bomb "attack" of Operation Alert. With him is his staff secretary, Col. Andrew J. Goodpaster. Later the President met with his National Security Council in a highly secret underground Pentagon.

regular Thursday meeting in Washington.

"The President said the first test of efforts to relocate the Government and keep it functioning efficiently had shown 'more complications than I ever believed possible.' These were discussed in the opening part of the Security Council meeting.

What the members talked about at their regular meeting was secret, as usual, but it was apparent the conferees, including Allen Dulles, head of the world-wide Central Intelligence Agency, had no inkling of the brewing revolt in Argentina.

The President and top advisers were genuinely surprised when informed by radio bulletins at a road stop en route from

the defense relocation center back to the temporary White House.

On hand for the session were the highest military and civilian advisers to the President. Some had flown by helicopter and others had come by automobile to this pre-arranged rendezvous deep under the earth where they would be safe from the explosive impact of even a hydrogen bomb.

The presence of the top military officials, headed by Admiral Arthur W. Radford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and including all four service chiefs, had led to speculation that the surprise fictitious working on regular business attack would be followed promptly by a simulated deadly law twenty-five bills enacted by surprise. The President effec-

tively spiked this speculation.

President Eisenhower was up early and worked at his desk on Governmental problems that no head of state can drop even for an exercise as important as this one. He then drove to the underground pentagon and returned for lunch with Mrs. Eisenhower and her mother, Mrs. John S. Ford, who had motored over from the family farm at Gettysburg, Pa. They drove back to the farm in the afternoon, and the President will join them tomorrow at the conclusion of this relocation test.

The President was back at his desk working on regular business after lunch, signing into law twenty-five bills enacted by Congress.